



# **The WisDOT Connector *Express***

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## **Hot off the press: 2007 state highway maps**

The new 2007 Wisconsin state highway map is now available for public distribution. The theme of this year's map is "local flavors and culinary treasures" featuring photos of the Dane County Farmers' Market, harvesting cranberries, cherries, blueberries and wild rice. Single maps are available by contacting the state Department of Tourism at (800) 432-8747. To order multiple copies, go to the WisDOT Web site at:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/publications/roadmap.htm>.

## **Highway safety conference set for August 22 – 23 in Stevens Point**

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety is set for August 22 - 23 at the new Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. The theme of this year's event is "Highway safety – we've come a long way but the trip's far from over." Featured speakers include James Champagne, past national chair of the Governor's Highway Safety Association and Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General David Perlman who will give an overview of state OWI laws. In addition, Rick Rosenthal, a media relations instructor and former news anchor at several Chicago radio and TV stations will provide advice on ways to partner with the media to communicate traffic safety messages effectively. To register, or for more information, call (608) 266-0402 or e-mail [vicki.schwabe@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:vicki.schwabe@dot.state.wi.us).

## **Update on Milwaukee Amtrak stations**

Progress continues on an approximately \$16 million public/private effort to renovate Milwaukee's downtown Amtrak station. Train passengers are being alerted that a temporary entrance to the facility is now located on the northwest side of the building just off St. Paul Avenue. The old main entrance has closed to allow construction of the new Galleria. The renovation project is expected to wrap up in late November of this year. More information is available on the WisDOT Web site at (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/amtrak-term.htm>). Also, the downtown station and Milwaukee Airport Rail Station now have new ADA-compliant "Quik Trak" automated ticket dispensing machines that allow passengers to purchase tickets or pick up previously ordered tickets.

## **The check is in the mail**

Communities across Wisconsin are receiving their quarterly General Transportation Aids payments. The July payments total \$97.1 million and are shared with each of the state's 1,923 local units of government. For all of 2007, communities will share more than \$388 million in payments. The funds come from vehicle registration and motor fuel tax collections. Each year, WisDOT returns about one-third of these revenues to help local governments build and maintain local roads and bridges.

## **Traffic fatalities down in June**

Preliminary data provided to WisDOT indicates 56 people died in Wisconsin traffic crashes in June, down from the 64 who were killed in traffic-related incidents in June of 2006 and well below the five-year average of 76 for the month of June. Highway safety officials say we're entering

an especially crucial period as July, August and September have historically been the most deadly months on state roadways. For the year, Wisconsin traffic fatalities reported through July 9<sup>th</sup> claimed 357 lives compared to 355 in 2006.

### **Federal grants provide transportation services for disabled**

Local governments, non-profit groups and public transportation providers can apply for federal grants from Wisconsin's New Freedom program to enhance transportation services for disabled citizens. The grants can assist with capital and operating expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The goal of the matching grant program is to help disabled citizens overcome barriers to entering the work force and allow full participation in society. The application deadline is August 29, 2007 for projects that will be implemented beginning in January 2008. More information about the New Freedom program can be found on the WisDOT Web site at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/transit/newfreedom.htm>.

### **Upcoming events**

August 22 - 23: 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point

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